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Limited, Suite 303, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place,
London WC1H 9BB (GB).

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(74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House,
7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
LIPOXEN TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED [GB/GB];
Suite 303, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London
WC1H 9BB (GB).

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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **JAIN, Sanjay**
[IN/GB]; Lipoxen Technologies Limited, Suite 303,
Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BB
(GB). **LAING, Peter** [GB/GB]; Lipoxen Technologies
Limited, Suite 303, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place,
London WC1H 9BB (GB). **GREGORIADIS, Gregory**
[CA/GB]; Lipoxen Technologies Limited, Suite 303,
Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BB
(GB). **HRECZUK-HRIST, Dale, Howard** [GB/GB];
Lipoxen Technologies Limited, Suite 303, Hamilton
House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BB (GB). **PA-**
PAOANNOU, Yiannis [GR/GB]; Lipoxen Technologies

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(54) Title: SIALIC ACID DERIVATIVES FOR PROTEIN DERIVATISATION AND CONJUGATION

(57) Abstract: Derivatives are synthesised of starting materials, usually polysaccharides, having sialic acid at the reducing terminal end, in which the reducing terminal unit is transformed into an aldehyde group. Where the polysaccharide has a sialic acid unit at the non-reducing end it may be passivated, for instance by converting into hydroxyl-substituted moiety. The derivatives may be reacted with substrates, for instance containing amine or hydrazine groups, to form non-cross-linked polysialylated compounds. The substrates may, for instance, be therapeutically useful drugs peptides or proteins or drug delivery systems.

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